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MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241

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Sodium Compounds, Monthly

ORIGINAL

U.S. PRODUCTION OF NATURAL SODA ASH AND NATURAL SODIUM SULFATE, DECEMBER 1986

Natural soda ash production in December decreased 9% compared with that of the previous month, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. Soda ash production in December was 595,000 short tons, 20% less than that of December 1985. The total quantity of soda ash produced in 1986 was 8,438,192 tons, which was slightly less than that reported in 1985. Wyoming trona production in December was 1,016,078 tons.

Apparent consumption of total soda ash in December was 467,000 tons, 22% less than the December 1985 level of 599,000 tons. Total domestic apparent consumption in 1986 was 6.6 million tons, which was less than the quantity recorded in 1985.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December were 134,866 tons and 6,093 tons, respectively. Industry sources have indicated that U.S. soda ash exports in 1986 have been underreported. The Bureau of Mines, with the cooperation of Statistics Canada, International Trade Division, has revised monthly export statistics, which are noted in Tables 5, 6, and 8. Until final data are received, the preliminary U.S. export total is 2,049,697 tons. Total soda ash imports reached 105,965 tons.

Prepared in the Division of Industrial Minerals, February 12, 1987.
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Table 1.--Salient soda ash and natural sodium sulfate statistics
(Short tons)

Period	Soda ash1/		Natural sodium sulfate	
	Production	Ending stocks2/	Production	Ending stocks
1985:				
January	666,427	318,374	W	W
February	648,890	313,988	W	W
March	703,603	313,432	W	W
April	664,932	280,094	W	W
May	753,457	298,488	W	W
June	690,512	244,944	W	W
July	710,871	278,720	W	W
August	729,255	324,894	W	W
September	671,574	299,566	W	W
October	793,386	298,710	W	W
November	739,137	350,415	W	W
December	739,011	391,670	W	W
1985 total	8,511,055	391,670	321,835	31,325
1986:				
January	715,912	448,504	W	W
February	655,675	390,374	W	W
March	743,418	437,075	W	W
April	611,186	348,640	W	35,381
May	795,046	318,177	W	41,648
June	761,881	319,011	W	35,140
July	728,264	334,456	W	40,938
August	746,859	239,778	W	46,133
September	733,556	292,531	W	86,677
October	700,233	283,340	W	74,444
November	651,410	295,526	W	45,396
December	594,752	294,383	W	90,797
1986 total p/	8,438,192	294,383	381,864	90,797

p/Preliminary.
W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
1/Natural only beginning in Feb. 1986. Synthetic soda ash production was terminated February 1986 when Allied-Signal Corp.'s Syracuse, NY, facility closed permanently.
2/Includes natural and synthetic. Some imports are included in ending inventories in 1986.

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Table 2.--U.S. exports of soda ash and sodium sulfate
(Thousand short tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sodium carbonate, calcined		Sodium sulfate					
			Crude		Refined		Total	
	Quantity	Value 1/	Quantity	Value 1/	Quantity	Value 1/	Quantity	Value 1/
1985:								
Jan.-Dec. r/	1,747	173,937	106	8,816	13	3,083	119	11,899
1986:								
January	r/198	23,347	1	83	(3/)	41	1	124
February	r/120	12,600	7	680	(3/)	77	7	757
March	r/158	18,038	8	791	(3/)	59	8	850
April	r/95	9,662	5	460	2	547	7	1,007
May	r/272	29,689	12	1,096	1	51	13	1,147
June	r/188	21,281	7	652	(3/)	83	7	735
July	r/153	15,838	5	518	(3/)	151	5	669
August	r/280	30,940	12	1,075	(3/)	38	12	1,113
September	r/165	18,303	(3/)	15	(3/)	90	(3/)	105
October	r/166	19,113	10	903	1	174	11	1,077
November	r/121	14,897	19	1,719	1	376	20	2,095
December	135	16,509	19	226	1	278	20	504
1986 total	2,050	4/230,217	105	8,818	7	1,965	2/112	10,183

r/Revised.
1/Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. port.
2/Data do not add to total shown because of independent rounding.
3/Less than ½ unit, included in total.
4/Pending final data reconciliation, export values have not been adjusted to correspond with revised export quantities.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 3.--U.S. exports of soda ash by country in December 1986
(Short tons)

Country	Quantity	Percent of total
Japan	29,101	22
Indonesia	19,621	15
South Africa, Republic of	16,026	12
Canada	12,836	10
Peru	10,226	8
Philippines	8,301	6
Korea, Republic of	7,716	5
Venezuela	7,523	5
Chile	5,571	4
Guatemala	5,512	4
New Zealand	3,397	3
Mexico	3,080	2
Other	5,956	4
Total	134,866	100

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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Table 4.--U.S. imports of soda ash and sodium sulfate
(Thousand short tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sodium carbonate, calcined & sesquicarbonate		Sodium sulfate					
			Crude1/		Anhydrous		Total	
	Quantity	Value2/	Quantity	Value2/	Quantity	Value2/	Quantity	Value2/
1985:								
Jan.-Dec.r/---	56	8,058	40	2,548	154	11,920	3/195	14,468
1986:								
January-------	4	605	4	248	16	1,209	20	1,457
February------	4	636	3	169	12	885	15	1,054
March---------	8	1,260	2	96	16	1,217	18	1,313
April---------	6	927	3	149	20	1,557	23	1,706
May-----------	7	1,042	3	152	15	1,209	18	1,361
June----------	12	1,805	3	164	10	779	13	943
July----------	14	2,030	2	143	11	787	13	930
August--------	11	1,649	2	165	13	952	15	1,117
September-----	10	1,453	2	136	12	821	14	957
October-------	14	1,809	3	156	14	1,090	17	1,246
November------	9	1,069	3	147	8	634	11	781
December------	6	715	3	149	11	792	14	941
1986 totalp/----	3/106	3/14,959	33	1,874	158	11,932	19	13,806

r/Revised. p/Preliminary.
1/Includes Glauber's salt.
2/Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f.) value at U.S. port.
3/Data do not add to total shown because of independent rounding.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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TABLE 5.--COMPARISON OF U.S. SODA ASH EXPORTS TO CANADA VERSUS CANADIAN IMPORTS OF U.S. SODA ASH
(Short tons)

	Bureau of the Census	Statistics Canada	
Month	Exports	Imports	Difference
JANUARY	7,906	12,500	4,594
FEBRUARY	8,413	17,939	9,526
MARCH	5,191	13,842	8,651
APRIL	11,197	14,395	3,198
MAY	5,672	18,596	12,924
JUNE	5,742	13,455	7,713
JULY	9,838	16,453	6,615
AUGUST	8,521	13,032	4,511
SEPTEMBER	7,372	12,030	4,658
OCTOBER	12,047	19,201	7,154
NOVEMBER	9,952	13,490	3,538
DECEMBER	12,836	e/ 12,836	e/ 0
TOTAL	104,687	e/ 177,769	e/73,082

e/ Estimated because December 1986 data are not available at this time. It is assumed that December U.S. exports equal Canadian imports.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS CANADA, INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION, AS ADJUSTED BY THE BUREAU OF MINES.

TABLE 6.--REVISED 1986 U.S. SODA ASH EXPORTS
(Short tons)

Month	Bureau of the Census Total	U.S./Canada Difference	Revised Export Total
JANUARY	193,792	4,594	198,386
FEBRUARY	110,425	9,526	119,951
MARCH	149,128	8,651	157,779
APRIL	92,153	3,198	95,351
MAY	259,025	12,924	271,949
JUNE	179,881	7,713	187,594
JULY	145,622	6,615	152,237
AUGUST	275,543	4,511	280,054
SEPTEMBER	160,478	4,658	165,136
OCTOBER	158,371	7,154	165,525
NOVEMBER	117,331	3,538	120,869
DECEMBER	134,866	e/ 0	e/ 134,866
TOTAL	1,976,615	e/ 73,082	e/ 2,049,697

e/ Estimated because December 1986 data are unavailable at this time from Statistics Canada. It is assumed that U.S. exports equal Canadian imports in December.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS CANADA, INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION, AS ADJUSTED BY THE BUREAU OF MINES.

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Table 7.—U.S. apparent consumption of soda ash
(Thousand short tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock increase or decrease		Apparent consumption 1/
1985:						
January	666	1	116	--	3	554
February	649	--	142	--	4	511
March	704	1	80	--	1	626
April	665	1	196	--	33	503
May	753	1	185	18	--	551
June	691	2	122	--	54	625
July	711	4	173	34	--	508
August	729	8	108	46	--	583
September	672	14	213	--	25	498
October	793	8	165	--	1	637
November	739	7	139	52	--	555
December	739	9	2/108	41	--	599
1985 total 3/	8,511	56	1,747	70	--	6,750
1986:						
January	716	4	r/4/198	57	--	r/465
February	656	4	r/120	--	58	r/598
March	743	8	r/158	47	--	r/546
April	611	6	r/95	--	88	r/610
May	795	7	r/272	--	30	r/560
June	762	12	r/188	1	--	r/585
July	728	14	r/152	15	--	r/575
August	747	11	r/280	--	95	r/573
September	734	10	r/165	53	--	r/526
October	700	14	r/166	--	9	r/557
November	651	9	r/121	12	--	r/527
December	595	6	5/135	--	1	5/467
1986 total p/	8,438	3/106	r/2,050	--	96	r/3/6,590

p/Preliminary. r/Revised.
1/Production + imports - exports ± stock changes.
2/Includes 16,276 tons shipped in December 1985 but erroneously credited to January 1986.
3/Data may not add to total shown because of independent rounding.
4/Excludes 16,276 tons shipped in December 1985 but erroneously credited to January 1986.
5/Additional data from Statistics Canada not available at this time.

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TABLE 8.--DESTINATION OF U.S. SODA ASH EXPORTS
(SHORT TONS)

COUNTRY	1983	1984	1985	1986 P/
ARGENTINA	95,650 1/	102,240	45,950	37,190
AUSTRALIA	23,178	2	16,535	38,031
BAHAMAS	49	20	125	141
BARBADOS	---	69	3	5
BELGIUM	65	5	---	---
BELIZE	10	26	---	---
BERMUDA	29	---	348	404
BOLIVIA	2,798	3,561	2,270	1,103
BRAZIL	49,292	7,962	64,051 2/	76,723 3/
CANADA	137,958	139,779	146,351	177,769 4/
CAYMAN ISLANDS	---	---	---	13
CHILE	25,514	23,558	29,810	41,935
CHINA	65,806	51,235	36,376	233,898
COLOMBIA	22	26	10,998	12,224
COSTA RICA	4,332	4,366	3	6,483
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	4,752	4,918	4,896	3,290
ECUADOR	1,265	7,990	6,062	9,884
EL SALVADOR	8,616	1,709	1,138	1,574
FRANCE	---	9	5	9
GERMANY,FEDERAL REP.OF	---	---	---	2
GUATEMALA	2,775	6,383	12,153	11,016
GUYANA	6	7	---	---
HAITI	---	6	61	659
HONDURAS	69	114	90	7
HONG KONG	53,621 5/	237,530 5/	543,099 5/	413,865 5/
INDIA	---	---	10,355	---
INDONESIA	75,998	104,603	58,864	92,339
IRELAND	2	10	3	---
ISRAEL	5,664	---	---	---
JAMAICA	5,906	4,874	4,339	5,942
JAPAN	211,784	210,923	226,759	235,465
KOREA, REP. OF	3,829	11,572	15,435	36,376
KUWAIT	---	55	---	---
LEEWARD & WINDWARD ISL.	28	---	45	27
LIBERIA	5	---	---	---
MALAYSIA	30,134	20,464	17,085	27,208
MEXICO	178,289	129,010	94,283	97,264
NETHERLANDS	---	71	---	---
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	---	3	---	20
NEW ZEALAND	27,832	24,996	43,543	35,433
NICARAGUA	1	---	---	---
NIGERIA	---	---	---	19
PAKISTAN	1	---	---	---
PANAMA	1,753	3,427	1,776	3,355
PERU	26,243	18,582	17,974	25,844
PHILIPPINES	78,753	77,500	47,231	49,339
SAUDI ARABIA	21,469	9,481	1	---
SIERRE LEONE	---	36	---	---
SINGAPORE	5,514	1	3	1
SOMALIA	---	---	2	---
SOUTH AFRICA, REP. OF	149,474	110,154	143,767	146,269
SPAIN	---	1	---	---
SUDAN	---	2	6	---
SURINAME	---	---	10	20
SWEDEN	---	---	---	17,356
SWITZERLAND	--- 6/	26,707 7/	---	---
SYRIA	5	---	---	---
TAIWAN	136,998	41,663	15,431	28,801
THAILAND	37,958	47,834	23,395	20,525
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	2,171	156	---	5,374
TRUK ISLANDS	---	---	4	---
TURKEY	---	14	---	---
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	13,396	---	1
UNITED KINGDOM	32,587	58,697	11,077	36,864
URUGUAY	550	---	---	---
VENEZUELA	127,219	142,668	94,852	119,428
TOTAL	1,635,975	1,648,415	1,746,366	2,049,697

P/ Preliminary.
1/ Adjusted to include 60,511 tons that was erroneously credited to Switzerland.
2/ Includes 16,276 tons shipped in December 1985 but erroneously credited to January 1986.
3/ Excludes 16,276 tons shipped December 1985 but erroneously credited to January 1986.
4/ Data representing imports from the United States through November 1986 and estimated December 1986 data, as reported by Statistics Canada, International Trade Division. The Bureau of the Census export statistics indicated only 104,687 tons were shipped to Canada in 1986.
5/ The majority was bagged and transshipped to China.
6/ Adjusted to exclude 60,511 tons erroneously credited to Switzerland. Shipment was actually made to Argentina.
7/ Industry sources indicate these data may be in error.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, AS ADJUSTED BY THE BUREAU OF MINES.

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Table 9.—Monthly Production of Wyoming Trona
(Short tons)

Month	1985	1986
January	1,025,077	1,150,373
February	920,048	1,042,110
March	977,769	1,153,371
April	989,372	1,114,668
May	995,599	1,127,918
June	874,126	1,047,554
July	896,798	1,068,600
August	1,035,969	1,106,283
September	934,260	1,050,374
October	1,021,516	1,054,092
November	1,031,007	1,038,608
December	1,094,375	1,016,078
Total	11,795,916	12,970,029

Table 10.—Regional distribution of U.S. soda ash exports
(percent of total)

Region	1983	1984	1985	1986
Asia	43	49	57	56
South America	20	19	15	16
North America	19	16	14	13
Africa	9	7	8	7
Europe	2	5	1	3
Oceania	3	1	3	3
Central America	1	1	1	1
Caribbean	1	1	1	1
Middle East	2	1	--	--
Total	100	100	100	100

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